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LETTER DATED 2 NOVEMBER 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I should like to inform you that United States, British and French aircraft continued to violate Iraqi airspace and carry out acts of reconnaissance and provocation over the period from 15 to 31 October 1996, as set forth in the list annexed hereto.

You are requested to intervene with the States concerned with a view to halting such acts, which, being flagrant violations of the Charter of the United Nations and the provisions of international law, threaten the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Iraq.

These acts continue to alarm the civilian population and to cause material damage to private and public property. The Republic of Iraq asserts its right to seek legal compensation for the damage inflicted on the people and the Republic of Iraq as a result of such acts.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex, the list of violations of Iraqi airspace, circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Details of violations and consequential damage over the period from 15 to 31 October 1996

1. In the northern region, 50 sorties were flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 9,000 metres over the following Iraqi cities and towns: Mosul, Irbil, Dohuk, Tall Afar, Aqrah, Amadiyah, Zakho, Ayn Zalah, Kuysanjaq, Shaqlawah and Dukan.

2. In the southern region, 1,050 sorties were flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 9,000 metres over the following Iraqi villages and towns: Nasiriyah, Samawah, Amarah, Qurnah, Artawi, Chabaish, Chalabiyah, Salman, Shatrah, Lasaf, Najaf, Qal'at Salih, Ushbayjah, south of Shaykh Sa'd, Ali al-Sharqi, Diwaniyah, Busayyah, Suq al-Shuyukh, Taqtaqanah, Shinafiyah, Rifa'i, Kut, Ali al-Gharbi, Hayy, Qal'at Sukkar, Jabal Sinam, Safwan, south of Hillah, Nukhayb, south of Najaf and Amghar.

3. On 17 occasions, United States TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft, flying at a speed of 600 kilometres per hour and at an altitude of 20,000 metres, violated the Republic of Iraq's airspace in the southern region before leaving in the direction of Kuwait.

4. At 1252 hours on 23 October 1996, a hostile United States formation consisting of two aircraft broke the sound barrier over the city of Basrah.